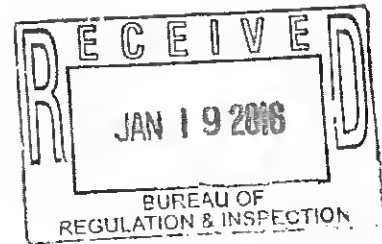


January 11, 2016



Dear Officer Jarvis,

Thank you for taking the time to speak to me today. Per our conversation, below please find a list of concerns I have for the safety and welfare of the animals at Tails of Courage, an animal shelter in Danbury, CT.

I was a volunteer at Tails of Courage from April 2015 to the end of December of 2015. I was there 1-2 times a week from April-June and from September-December. During the summer months, I was there 4-5 times a week.

1. The dogs are kept in crates from around 5pm every day until around 9am the next morning. They have no access to water during this time. In the morning I would go in and find the dogs barking and clambering to get out, and their crates would have urine and feces in them.
2. In June Tails of Courage took in a young, healthy male German Shepherd named Boomer. Due to aggression, he was staff-only, and was kept in the basement alone in a crate every night. During the day he was in a outdoor pen, and was not taken for walks and got minimal exercise. Over the summer and into the fall, he began to lose weight. He looked sickly, and appeared to be getting weaker and weaker. I was assured he was seen by a vet regularly, but his condition continued to deteriorate. On Saturday October 24th he was taken to the vet (Plumtrees), and I was told the vet refused to see him because he tried to bite him/her. Boomer had not been eating and had diarrhea. Despite his condition, he was not taken to a vet again until Monday afternoon, October 26th around 4pm, at which point he was so weak that he could not stand, and had to be carried to the car. He was euthanized later on that night (at Plumtrees).
3. Aries is a pit mix who was very stressed in the garage at night. He broke out of his crate on several occasions, and over the summer he broke out as did another dog named Helo, and they fought. Helo was badly injured. In early December, Aries got out of his crate again, as did a dog named Bambi, and Bambi was badly injured. She was kept at the veterinary hospital for a number of days, then Kristan Exner (the president and founder of Tails of Courage) took her home to continue to care for her. Bambi came back to the shelter in mid-December. Despite this history, Aries was still kept in the garage with all of the other dogs. On December 20th, Aries got out of his crate again, as did Bambi, and Bambi was further injured. She was taken to the veterinary hospital and died a few days later of her injuries.
4. We have had a significant number of puppies die. There have been many occasions when puppies have appeared obviously sick; worms coming out of their behinds, diarrhea, vomiting, not eating, lethargic, and they are not taken to the vet. Or by the time they are taken, it is too late and they die. A Cain Corso named Mama Bella gave birth to 12 puppies at the shelter in August. She became sick and needed antibiotics, so the puppies could no longer nurse. 8 puppies died. Mama and the surviving 4 were taken

into foster care. Most recently, in late November, a dog named Dixie gave birth to 7 puppies. She also became sick and could no longer nurse them, and 4 of them died. They, like the other puppies, did not get adequate care to survive. Their mother did not get adequate care and so became sick and could not nurse them. Kristan took them home for a few days here and there in December, but brought them back to the shelter where they died.

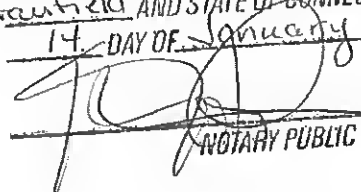
5. We have had so many sick kittens; too many to count. Again, kittens that needed veterinary care and did not get it. Upper respiratory, diarrhea, vomiting, and ringworm. Precautions were not taken to prevent the spread of illness. In July, a black kitten named Mandy had severe upper respiratory symptoms, and did not get taken to a vet. she got sicker, wasn't eating, and had trouble breathing. By the time she was taken to the vet (Plumtrees), she was too far gone and they euthanized her.
6. Transports came in every every other week on average, on Saturday evenings. I was there every Sunday, and often we could not find any paperwork on some of the animals that had arrived.
7. The shelter itself is often filthy and smelly. The cat condos are not cleaned/sanitized.

I hope that you will be willing to look into this rescue and see for yourself the unhealthy environment these animals are kept in. I believe that these animals are not being treated humanely, and that too many animals have needlessly suffered and died there, due to insufficient staffing, insufficient medical care, lack of funding, and poor, unsanitary conditions. I believe that at the very least, these dogs should have access to water for more than 8 hours a day.

I have expressed my concerns to Kristan Exner on several occasions, as have others. Many staff members and volunteers have left due to these issues. I am requesting that someone to help these animals, and I truly hope that the State Department of Agriculture can at the very least pay Tails of Courage a visit and discuss these issues with Kristan.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, A
NOTARY PUBLIC, IN AND FOR COUNTY OF
Fairfield AND STATE OF CONNECTICUT, THIS
14 DAY OF January 2016

NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires
March 31, 2017

